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SUBJECT: GAZA BORDER UPDATE

11. A security contact confirmed to us that the Ministry of Defense would be trying to prevent additional Palestinians from entering Egypt today, January 25. Egyptian Border Guard Forces are now deployed to create a form of barrier along the border at Rafah, but an opening exists to allow Palestinians to exit back to Gaza.

12. There also appears to be an effort underway to start patching the wall to create a more permanent barrier. Egyptian Central Security Forces continue to make efforts (via roadblocks) to prevent Palestinians from moving beyond Al Arish city towards Cairo or into the Sinai. According to press reports, Egyptian security forces are now performing checks on Palestinians.

Ricciardone